

Town Council



STAFF REPORT

Department of Engineering & Public Works Stormwater Management Division

MEETING DATE:	January 13, 2015
PROJECT:	May River Update
PROJECT MANAGER:	Jeremy Ritchie, Director, Stormwater Mgt. Division

In 2014 through its projects and programs, the Stormwater Management Division continued to implement the May River Watershed Action Plan initiatives in support of the Town's goals to "celebrate and protect the May River" and "promote a livable, sustainable Bluffton."

Major accomplishments and milestones this past year include:

- continued monitoring of the New Riverside Stormwater Lagoon, which has shown a 70% reduction in fecal coliform levels as stormwater enters and exits the pond;
- formalized an agreement with the Pine Ridge community for the Pine Ridge Stormwater Lagoon Retrofit, the Town's second Section 319 Grant project, and began flow and rainfall monitoring for the project;
- executing a contract with the Versar team to provide stormwater consulting services in support of initiatives identified in the Action Plan;
- two staff members receiving their Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector (CEPSCI) certification through South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), and three staff members receiving their Certified Stormwater Plan Review certification through SCDHEC;
- conducting over 2,200 construction-site inspections;
- collecting an additional 2,028 GPS stormwater infrastructure data points for the May River Headwaters drainage area;
- organizing and conducting two May River cleanups where 330 volunteers removed approximately 2.4 tons of trash from the river and the streets leading to the river;
- facilitating 23 septic system inspections and pump-outs/repairs;
- continued education and outreach to the community and state through speaking engagements, presentations, manuscripts and public service announcements;
- coordination with Public Works on ditch maintenance and street cleaning;
- coordination with the Town's project managers to ensure that water quality improvements are incorporated into the Town's non-stormwater related Capital Improvement Projects; and

- the Town of Bluffton officially receiving its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) designation from SCDHEC on October 1, 2014.

Much work will be performed in the coming months in response to the MS4 designation. Staff is currently preparing its Notice of Intent (NOI) package that will be submitted to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for their review and approval. The NOI package defines the Town's MS4 program and provides SCDHEC with measurable goals for each of the stormwater minimum control measures required by the permit.

The collaborative effort and teamwork that exists between all of the different departments and divisions within the Town gives the Stormwater Management Division an opportunity to perform its job better, and more efficiently. Although the coming year will be a busy one, we are confident that the qualified, dedicated staff of the Stormwater Management Division will continue to implement the Action Plan to improve conditions in the May River, while defining, permitting, and implementing the MS4 program.